

Message Text

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71

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 M-03 SY-10 SS-15 FAA-00

EB-11 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 A-01 L-03

IO-13 SCA-01 RSR-01 /118 W

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R 031824Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2330

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY TELAVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS

SUBJ: JAL HIJACKING: LIBYAN VIEWS

FOR S/SCCT

REF: STATE 146537

1. AUGUST 3 FIGARO CARRIES INTERVIEW WITH LIBYAN PRESIDENT QADHAFI ON SUBJECT ON RECENT JAL HIJACKING. QADHAFI TOLD FIGAR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT CHAUVEL THAT HIJACKERS WOULD BE TRIED UNDER ISLAMIC LAW, WHICH COULD LEAD TO PENALTY OF DEATH, AMPUTATION OF ARM OR LEG, PRISON TERM. QADHAFI STATED UNEQUIVOCALLY THAT LIBYA WAS AGAINST HIJACKINGS AND THAT WHEN CAUSE IS NOBLE, NOBLE MEANS MUST BE USED. HIJACKING OF AIRCRAFT AND TAKING OF PRISONERS ARE CRIMINAL ACTS. THESE MEANS CANNOT BE USED IN NOBLE CAUSE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT ORIGIN OF HIJACKERS, QADHAFI SAID THAT NO ONE KNEW WHETHER THEY ARE PALESTINIANS OR JAPANESE. NOTING THAT PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE CONDEMNED THEM, QADHAFI SAID HIJACKERS HAVE NO IDENTITY, HAVE BURNED THEIR PAPERS, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND THEIR NATIONALITY IS THEREFORE UNKNOWN.

2. CHAUVEL ALSO REPORTS THAT PALESTINIANS HAVE SENT INVESTIGATORS TO BENGHAZI TO MAKE INQUIRY WITH LIBYAN POLICE. CHAUVEL SAYS THAT TWO OF PIRATES ARE REPORTEDLY PALESTINIANS FROM OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, WHICH HAS LED SOME TO CONCLUDE THAT THEY WERE BEING MANIPULATED BY ISRAELIS.

3. EVEN MORE BIZARRE EXPLANATION OF HIJACKING APPEARED IN JULY 27 POLITIQUE CE MATIN, CONFIDENTIAL AND OCCASIONALLY GOVERNMENT-INSPIRED NEWSLETTER EDITED BY GEORGES BROUSSINE. CITING "UNVERIFIABLE RUMORS" BROUSSINE WRITES THAT HIJACKING RELATED TO CURRENT "SAVAGE COMPETITION" BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS. (SIC). JAL, HE SAYS, WILL NOW HAVE TO BUY ANOTHER 747 TO REPLACE ON DESTROYED AND THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT DISPEASE MANUFACTUR. IT MIGHT ALSO OBLIGE JAL TO SLOW DOWN ITS EXPANSION AND THEREBY KEEP IT FROM TURNING TOWARDS SUPERSONIC AIRCRAFT.

4. COMMENT: WE HAVE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT FRENCH OFFICIALS BELIEVE THAT EITHER ISRAELIS OR INTERNATIONAL AIRCRAFT MANUFACTURERS BEHIND HIJACKING. NONETHELESS, THERE IS WIDESPREAD UNCERTAINTY ABOUT ORIGINS OF THE INCIDENT. RANDOM AND UNFOCUSSED NATURE OF HIJACKING, PARTICULARLY DISTURBING TO LOGICAL FRENCH, WHO MAY BE WORRIED THAT JAL INCIDENT IS SYMPTOMATIC OF NEW FORM OF INTERNATIONAL ANARCHISM. DECONTROL 12/31/74.
STONE

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